

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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O 151556Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

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PASS BASORA AND MALLEY FOR USDEL CARIBBEAN DONORS'
MEETING

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRIDGETOWN 1305 ACTION SECSTATE INFO PORT
OF SPAIN 12 MAY:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRIDGETOWN 1305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, XL

SUBJ: CONSULATATIONS ON CARIBBEAN GROUP

REF: STATE 115863

1. IN ABSENCE MINISTER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FORDE, WHO WAS IN
TRINIDAD, AMBASSADOR CALLED MAY 11 ON PERMSEC SYMMONDS TO
DISCUSS MAY DONORS MEETING AND FOLLOWING JUNE MEETING OF
CARIBBEAN GROUP(CG).

2. SYMMONDS ACCEPTED WISDOM OF HOLDING DONORS MEETING
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WHILE CONFIRMING THAT TRINIDAD HAD ALSO BEEN INVITED TO
PARIS, APPARENTLY BY WORLD BANK. HE SAID TRINIDAD NOT YET
DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD SEND OBSERVER.

3. REGARDING POSSIBILITY THAT CARICOM MIGHT AGAIN ACCEPT
FORDE AS SPOKESMAN AT CG MEETING, SYMMONDS EXPLAINED THAT
FORDE HAD FALLEN INTO ROLE OF CARICOM SPOKESMAN

AT DECEMBER MEETING BY REQUEST WILLIAM DEMAS, PRESIDENT,
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

IN JUNE, HOWEVER, COMMON POSITIONS MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT
TO REACH AND BARBADOS WILL NOT OFFER ITSELF AS SPOKESMAN
UNLESS ASKED.

4. THIS WEEK IN TRINIDAD, FORDE WAS TO SOUND OUT
POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER ADAMS VISITING TRINIDAD
FOR TALKS DIRECTLY WITH WILLIAMS. FORDE REPORTEDLY
THINKS WILLIAMS COULD TAKE DECISIONS
WHICH WOULD OBTAIN FORMAL CARICOM MEETING OF HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT. IF HELD, LATTER SESSION COULD NOT TAKE
PLACE UNTIL JULY OR AUGUST, SYMONDS SAID, AND WOULD NOT
THEREFORE BEAR DIRECTLY ON CG MEETING.

5. DCM ALSO DISCUSSED CG WITH GLORIA PAYNE, PERMSEC FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GRENADA. PM GAIRY OUT OF COUNTRY.
HER GOVERNMENT ANNOYED AT NOT HAVING BEEN INVITED TO CARICOM
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PREPCOM MEETING IN BARBADOS
THIS WEEK, AND GRENADA IN ANY CASE LUKEWARM ABOUT
POSSIBILITY OF FORDE EMERGING AS SPOKESMAN AGAIN.
SHE BELIEVES IT IS IMPERATIVE BEFORE CG MEETING
THAT WORLD BANK MISSION COME TO EASTERN CARIBBEAN AS
ORIGINALLY "PROMISED" TO REVIEW REGIONAL PROJECTS.
OTHERWISE, SHE SAID, DISCUSSIONS AT CG WILL BE
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HAMPERED IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS SUCH AS AIR AND
SEA TRANSPORT.

6. REGARDING BEST TIMING FOR BILATERAL TALKS,
BARBADOS COULD PRESUMABLY ACCEPT ANY TIME BETWEEN
DONORS MEETING AND CG MEETING. FOR GRENADA, LAST WEEK IN MAY
AND FIRST WEEK JUNE BAD BECAUSE OF A MEETING OF
"EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT" REPORTEDLY BEING HELD GRENADA
MAY 29-JUNE 3. ORTIZ UNQUOTE. VANCE

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